

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SPTA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4406

INFO USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, UR, PN

SUBJECT: CPSU COMMENT ON CANAL TREATIES

1. PRAVDA JULY 15 REPORTS THAT CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER, SECRETARY CC CPSU PONOMAREV, ALONG WITH DEPUTY HEAD CPSU INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT BRUTENTS, RECEIVED PANAMANIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL SOUS AND POLITBURO MEMBER TOMAS IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE JULY 14. PRAVDA ITEM (ASSUME FBIS WILL CARRY FULL TEXT) INDICATES THAT AFTER PANAMANIAN VISITORS REPORTED TO THEIR HOSTS THAT THE CONCLUSION OF CANAL TREATIES MARKED A "SERIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR STRENGTHENING PANAMA'S SOVEREIGNTY," THE CPSU REPRESENTATIVES ADVISED THAT "THEY SHARE THE EVALUATION" OF THE TREATIES "AS AN IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA." PRAVDA ITEM FURTHER NOTES THAT THE PANAMANIAN VISITORS ALSO TOLD THE SOVIETS ABOUT THE CHANGES CARRIED OUT BY THE TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT AND THE TASKS WHICH THE "PRESENT ATMOSPHERE" IN PANAMA PUTS BEFORE THE PARTY.

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2. COMMENT: IN THE ABSENCE OF MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOMESTIC SCENE IN PANAMA, WE ARE UNABLE TO EVALUATE VARIOUS NUANCES IN THE FIVE-PARAGRAPH STATEMENT ABOUT THE "ATMOSPHERE" THERE. HOWEVER, THE LANGUAGE ON THE CANAL TREATIES DOES REPRESENT A CLEAR ENDORSEMENT OF THEM BY THE CPSU. FROM THE BEGINNING THE SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN THEIR LEAD FROM THE PANAMANIAN

IN COMMENTING ON THE TREATIES, AND INTERESTINGLY
THE SAME APPROACH IS ADOPTED HERE, WITH THE PANAMANIAN
PEOPLE'S PARTY ENDORSEMENT SETTING THE STAGE FOR
THE POSITIVE CPSU EVALUATION. MATLOCK

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